3. Ban on sale of tobacco products to children below 18 years. (Section-6a)

4. Ban on sale of tobacco products within 100 yards of the educational institution. (Section-6b)

5. Specified health warnings on tobacco products. (Section-7)

The section-4 of the said Act prohibits smoking in public places, thereby protecting the non-smokers from second hand smoke/environmental tobacco smoke. The Ministry of Health has issued guidelines to the State Governments/ Departments to implement the smoke-free rules.

Further, the pilot phase of National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP) has also been launched in 2007-08 in 18 districts of 9 States. The NTCP envisages building capacity of the State Governments in the effective enforcement of Anti Tobacco Laws and bringing about greater awareness about the ill effects of tobacco.

It is expected that the initiatives of the Government, in bringing about greater awareness of the harm effects of tobacco & strict enforcement of the anti-tobacco laws will protect the non-smokers & also progressively reduce the demand of tobacco products in India.

Shortage of Quality Seeds

*275.SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a severe shortage of seeds, particularly quality seeds in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken to ensure the availability of quality seeds?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The over all availability of certified/quality seeds in the country for 2008-09 is 250.34 lakh quintals against the requirement of 207.28 lakh quintals as reported by the State/UT Governments.

(c) Systematic production of breeder, foundation and certified/quality seed is undertaken in every season by the seed producing agencies. Assistance is provided for seeds under different schemes being implemented by the Government of India. These schemes include (i) Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA) (ii) Integrated Scheme on Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM) (iii) Technology Mission on Jute and Mesta (iv) Technology Mission on Cotton (v) Development and Strengthening of Infrastructure Facilities for Production and Distribution of Quality Seed (vi) National Food Security Mission (NFSM) and (vii) Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY).

Requirement of iron-ore by steel companies

*276.SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) how much iron-ore is required by all steel companies in Jharkhand for expansion/ Greenfield projects;